

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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(RETIRED SPIES)

(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- MORE THAN 200 FORMER SPOOKS ARE COMING IN FROM THE COLD AGAIN AT A NEARBY WATERING SPOT TO SWAP TALES ABOUT THEIR OLD CLOAK AND DAGGER DAYS.

THE MALE AND FEMALE SPOOKS -- A TERM APPLIED TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CIA -- ARE PART OF THE 1,200 MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS, WHICH OPENS ITS SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION TODAY.

FORMED 16 MONTHS AGO, THE ASSOCIATION ALSO INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP FORMER AGENTS FROM THE FBI, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS.

THE SPOOKS OFTEN WERE HIDDEN IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES UNDER "DEEP COVER" IN WHICH THEIR TRUE ROLES WERE SOMETIMES UNKNOWN EVEN TO MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. NOW THE DELEGATES AND THEIR SPOUSES ARE OUT IN THE OPEN, EVEN WEARING LAPEL TAGS SAYING WHO THEY ARE.

CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH AND LT. GEN. SAMUEL WILSON, HEAD OF THE DIA, WILL ADDRESS THE CONVENTION, AS WILL THEIR PREDECESSORS -- WILLIAM E. COLBY AND LT. GEN. DANIEL GRAHAM.

THE TWO FORMER OFFICIALS ARE PARTICIPATING IN A SEMINAR ON "GOOD SECRETS, NONSECRETS AND BAD SECRETS," A DISCUSSION OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDIA IN REPORTING ON INTELLIGENCE.

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